

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A method for positioning a scanning starting point of an image scanning apparatus, wherein the image scanning apparatus comprises a platen having an orthogonal X-Y coordinate system and for a document to be placed thereon, a carriage  
5 disposed in the image scanning apparatus and moving along a Y direction from a starting line for capturing an image of the document to be scanned, and a plurality of marks inside the image scanning apparatus for indicating different Y coordinate values, an X-axis being defined by a first wide margin of the platen and a Y-axis being defined by a first long margin of the platen, the method comprising the following steps:

10 (a) choosing one of the marks as a reference point, which is the nearest mark to the document to be scanned;

(b) obtaining a vector from an image starting point of the document to be scanned to the reference point; and

15 (c) moving the carriage to the reference point, which is chosen as a starting point, and proceeding to scan.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the magnitude of the vector is the difference in magnitude between the image starting point and the reference point.

3. The method according to claim 2, wherein the coordinates of the vector are (x, y) in the step (b), the coordinates of the image starting point are  $(x_n+x, y_n+y)$  when the  
20 coordinates of the image starting point are  $(x_n, y_n)$ .

4. The method according to claim 3, wherein the carriage in step (c) starts to scan from the position with an X coordinate value of  $x_n+x$ .

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein some of the marks have negative Y coordinate values.

5           6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the marks are located at a second long margin of the platen.

7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the marks have the same X coordinate value.

10           8. The method according to claim 1, wherein the intersection of the X-axis and Y-axis is an origin and the image starting point is the nearest point to the origin among the points located within the image.

9. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step (a) includes:

pre-scanning the document to be scanned to obtain a image to be scanned; and

15           choosing one of the marks as a reference point, which is the nearest mark of the image to be scanned.

10. An apparatus for positioning a scanning starting point of an image scanning apparatus, comprising:

a platen for a document to be placed thereon and having an orthogonal X-Y

coordinate system, wherein the X-Y coordinate system comprises an X-axis defined by a first wide margin of the platen and a Y-axis defined by a first long margin of the platen;

5 a carriage disposed in the image scanning apparatus and moving along the Y direction from a starting line for capturing an image of the document to be scanned; and

a plurality of marks inside the image scanning apparatus for indicating different Y coordinate values as the reference points for the carriage to capture the images of the document to be scanned.

10 11. The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the marks are located at a second long margin of the platen.

12. The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the marks are lines perpendicular to the Y direction.

13. The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the marks are rectangles, and one corner of one rectangle is chosen as the reference point.

15 14. The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the marks are isosceles right-angled triangles, one of two equal sides of the isosceles right-angled triangle is parallel to X-axis while the other is parallel to Y-axis, and one corner with the bigger Y coordinate value of one isosceles right-angled triangle is chosen as the reference point.

15. The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the marks are crosses, and the

intersection of one cross is chosen as the reference point.

16. The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the platen is made of glass.

17. The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the marks are located in a marking group area.

5           18. The apparatus according to claim 10 further comprising a casing for protecting the apparatus.

19. The apparatus according to claim 18 further comprising a groove inside the casing for placing and steadying the marking group area.

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